

Message

From: Jean Mendoza **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
Sent: 5/29/2022 4:23:04 AM
To: Peak, Nicholas [Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: CAFO Question

Thank you Nick

On May 25, 2022, at 7:42 AM, "Peak, Nicholas" <Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Jean,

I couldn't begin to accurately speculate about the difference because the regulatory climate here in Idaho is no different than in Oregon or Washington. I know the hydrogeology in the Snake River plain is unique, but I am not an expert on that.

There is a USGS water science center here in Boise that's done extensive research on the hydrogeology, water quality, and other characteristics of the Snake River Plain. Their website is <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/idaho-water-science-center>. Some of their publications may shed more light on the matter beyond what I can comment on. A specific researcher looking into groundwater quality in Idaho is Ken Skinner, and he's got some more recent publications that may be helpful: <https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/kenneth-d-skinner>.

Nick Peak

Agriculture Advisor

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From: Jean Mendoza **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 5:06 AM
To: Peak, Nicholas <Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: CAFO Question

Good Morning Nick,

Thanks for your quick reply. If you have time, could you go a little deeper? I am familiar with the documents you sent. In order to describe the situation better for others I recently compared Yakima County, WA, Morrow County, Ore, and Gooding County, Idaho - the three leading dairy counties in each state. I found that Gooding County, with almost 163,000 milk cows had relatively lower groundwater nitrate levels. I can only guess at the reason. Any thoughts you can provide on what is different in Idaho will help.

Best wishes.

Jean Mendoza

On May 24, 2022, at 5:57 AM, "Peak, Nicholas" <Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Jean,

I am doing well, I hope you are as well.

The state of Idaho requires all new lagoons and lagoons that are upgraded or retrofitted to be built to design standards specified in state regulations. These standards adhere to Appendix 10D of the Agriculture Waste Management Handbook found at: https://agri.idaho.gov/main/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2008_Appendix_10D.pdf. The state department of agriculture (ISDA) reviews and approves all plans and specifications of the lagoons prior to being to being built. However, there are areas of high nitrate levels in the state. IDEQ maintains a list of nitrate priorities areas of the state and can be found at this link: <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/ground-water/ground-water-quality/>.

Let me know if you have any further questions, I'm happy to help out.

Nick Peak

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From: Jean Mendoza **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 4:43 PM

To: Peak, Nicholas <Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov>

Subject: CAFO Question

Hello Nick,

How are you doing? Well, I hope.

I also hope you have time for a quick question. I have been studying nitrate/nitrite levels in groundwater for Oregon, Washington, and Idaho in areas with high concentrations of dairy cows. The numbers in Idaho are not as high as I would have expected. Does Idaho require CAFO dairies to line their manure lagoons with synthetic liners. Are they doing anything differently in Idaho?

Thanks for any information you can send my way.

Jean Mendoza